

From: Lawler, Michael (DPH) </O=COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS/OU=MASSMAIL-01/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=MICHAEL.LAWLER>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2010 5:05 PM
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Subject: RE: Sample assignment/case together

At one point earlier, there had been some discussion of focusing chemist's efforts on particular cities/towns/regions. The thought was, if the chemist was concentrating on the work from a particular area, he'd more efficiently service multiple court obligations with a single visit to the region. That is, rather than chemists facing random summons on a given day from several distant locales (eg. New Bedford, Boston, Salem) if they had only been doing Taunton/Fall River/ New Bedford area samples, they would be more likely to have multiple summons originate from the same general locale. This might lead to a more successful evolution of "Drug Courts" with particular days for drug cases. Can we consider this as well?

From: O'Brien, Elisabeth (DPH)
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2010 1:10 PM
To: Salemi, Charles (DPH); Saunders, Della (DPH); Piro, Peter (DPH); Lawler, Michael (DPH); Sprague, Shirley (DPH)
Cc: Nassif, Julianne (DPH)
Subject: Sample assignment/case together

Just an update on the sample status in the evidence office and the upcoming transition to assigning the entire case to one chemist on a regular basis.

We are currently assigning June powder samples and May RX samples. There are no VM bins and the trafficking's are up to date. The looming date to keep in mind is July 22, 2009. This is the date where the entire case has been kept together, either in the same envelope or in chronological order. I estimate we are about one month away from assigning samples from that date at the rate we are going.

I think perhaps we should discuss at least two things: First, chemists will no longer have the freedom to analyze only what their preference is (some only like to do powders), and are they prepared to analyze all types of samples? Secondly, what does this mean for Mass Spec? Chemists will be submitting samples of all types at once, rather than the batches of similar substances. How can we keep as few GC/MS analysts involved as possible? Can chemists such as Della, Kate, Annie and Dan analyze their own samples and eliminate the need for a second chemist at all on their certs? (We could always have a "reviewer" look over their certs as a second pair of eyes).

I don't want this pending date to catch anyone off guard so perhaps we can discuss this in advance and head off any confusion.

Thanks,

ELO